

Iranian troops to leave Oman

TEHRAN, Jan. 26 (R). — The government announced tonight that its ground task force sent to the Sultanate of Oman to help crush marxist insurgency in Dhofar province will return home because calm had been restored there. But fighter aircraft of the Imperial Iranian Air Force will continue support flights in Omani air space, the brief announcement released through the official Pars News Agency said. It gave no figures of the returning troops or the extent of the air support the government has decided to retain.

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King Hussein advises cautious approach to Geneva conference

BEIRUT, Jan. 26 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview published here today, cautioned against over-optimism that a resumed Geneva Middle East peace conference would be an easy operation.

Speaking about prospects for solving the Middle East crisis, King Hussein said in the interview, published by the daily Al Anwar and its sister weekly magazine Al Sayyad: "Israel is practically stronger than at any time in the past. She is drowned in piles of the most up-to-date weapons which she received from various countries."

The King asked whether Israel would submit to the international will and withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

He added "If this does not happen -- and I'm personally inclined to advising caution and not to be over-optimistic that Geneva will be an easy operation -- then what is the alternative?"

He added that compared with the situation in the war of October, 1973, the Arab states may be militarily weaker now "because we have been unable to develop our armaments..."

King Hussein said the Arabs should go to Geneva while they were strong, even though they may not need to use force. "What we are afraid of is that we may move from a position of weakness and I do not think that any weak party can achieve good results," he said.

The King added "This requires that we, the confrontation states and the Palestinians, should cooperate. This has already been achieved and it requires that our brothers in the Arab World provide us with real backing and help. But I do not see any logic in initiating any action while I know that I am weak. The result would be a new catastrophe."

Asked if he thought U.S. President Jimmy Carter's new administration would list the Middle East crisis among its priorities, King Hussein said he believed that the Middle East problem would receive much concern. But he added "I cannot say right now what course the policy of the new American administration will take. All indications, however, are encouraging but there had not been any official contacts or discussions in this respect."

Asked why there had not been any meeting between him and Palestinian guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat, the King said there was no reason why they should not meet. The door was open for starting a constructive dialogue "and there are no problems."

Speaking about his conditions for cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said there should be no return to the situation which led to the fighting between the Jordanian army and the Palestinian commandos in 1970. Otherwise, he said, "We are fully prepared for cooperation towards everything that may serve the Palestinian question and the Arab cause."

Asked about the possibility of the commandos returning to Jordan "provided that they do not interfere in Jordanian affairs," the King said "any discussions on this subject at the present time would be premature."

Replying to a question on whether he had agreed on the establishment of a Palestinian state, he said "We are fully prepared for cooperation towards everything that may serve the Palestinian question and the Arab cause."

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Makarios, Denktash meet today

NICOSIA, Jan. 26 (R). — The President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will meet in Nicosia tomorrow in a new attempt to break the eight-month political deadlock on this divided island, reliable sources disclosed here tonight. The meeting will take place on "neutral" ground, controlled by United Nations troops. It will be the first meeting at any level since last May between representatives of Cyprus' hostile Greek and Turkish communities.



His Majesty King Hussein receives the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, Sheikh Sagr bin Muhammad Al Qasbi, at Amman International Airport Wednesday. Sheikh Sagr arrived here for a five-day official visit. Later in the evening King Hussein held talks with his guest on bilateral relations and Jordan's relations with the United Arab Emirates at the Hashemiyah Royal Palace. A dinner banquet was given in honour of Sheikh Sagr and the accompanying delegation.

Breakaway army barracks occupied as fighting is reported in south Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan. 26 (Agencies). — with Israel and rightwing militia groups of the Arab peace-keeping force today took over three barracks and public buildings in west Beirut which had been held by the Lebanese Arab Army, the right-wing Voice of Lebanon radio reported here today.

The radio said Lt. Ahmad Al Khateeb, the leader of one of the Lebanese Arab Army factions, was taken to Damascus together with some of his associates after the takeover. The barracks were occupied during the Lebanese Arab army broke away from the regular army.

Reliable sources in Nicosia said the operation went off smoothly and that the peace-keeping forces and the capital had been strengthened. Last Sunday, they entered districts in east Beirut and surrounded several barracks occupied by rightist militia.

Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Hoss said today that entry into northern Lebanon of the Arab peace force might provoke an Israeli reaction.

Replying to a question by a delegation of Lebanese reporters today, Dr. Al Hoss added: "That why the Arab peace force has entered deep into the south."

The premier added that it was essential to rebuild the Lebanese army so that it could go into the north.

According to travellers reaching Cyprus, fierce battles are raging near Lebanon's southern border Israel.

Over sale of 600 rifles to Syria Kreisky faces motion of no-confidence

VIENNA, Jan. 26 (AFP). — Opposition leaders introduced two motions of censure in parliament today in connection with the government's sale of arms and ammunition to Syria, an apparent breach of Austrian neutrality.

Debate on the censure move, which has been grabbing headlines here for weeks, lasted throughout the day.

The motions were introduced by the (Christian Democrat) People's Party and the Liberal Party over the sale of 600 rifles and 6,000 rounds of ammunition.

One critic Defence Minister Luetgendorf for his handling of the transaction and the other, Socialist government of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Neither motion was given any chance of being adopted in a vote expected later tonight in view of the Socialist Party's three-seat majority in the National Assembly.

Floor leader Heinz Fischer, speaking for the Socialist Party opposed censure of the defence minister, noting that the parliamentary commission named today was due to look into his role in the sale and report back by March 31.

Any move to censure Gen. Luetgendorf before the panel made its findings known would be "inopportune," Mr. Fischer told the Assembly.

Debate on the sale was less heated than generally expected.

The opposition had accused Chancellor Kreisky of failing to halt delivery of the ammunition on Dec. 17, although he was informed of the deal four days earlier.

Nationalist forces move arms from Somalia Washington condemns Smith's "internal solution"

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (R). — The United States today attacked Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith's proposals to negotiate a settlement to the territory's independence dispute with chosen black leaders.

The state Department said Mr. Smith's "so-called internal solution," to begin talks with black nationalists he considered moderate, would not produce a peaceful settlement and therefore did not have the support of the United States.

The U.S. said any negotiations which excluded leaders of nationalist movements would not produce a settlement.

"We urge all parties which have been involved in the negotiations (at Geneva) to consider their positions carefully and pursue a course which will produce a peaceful outcome," the department said in a statement.

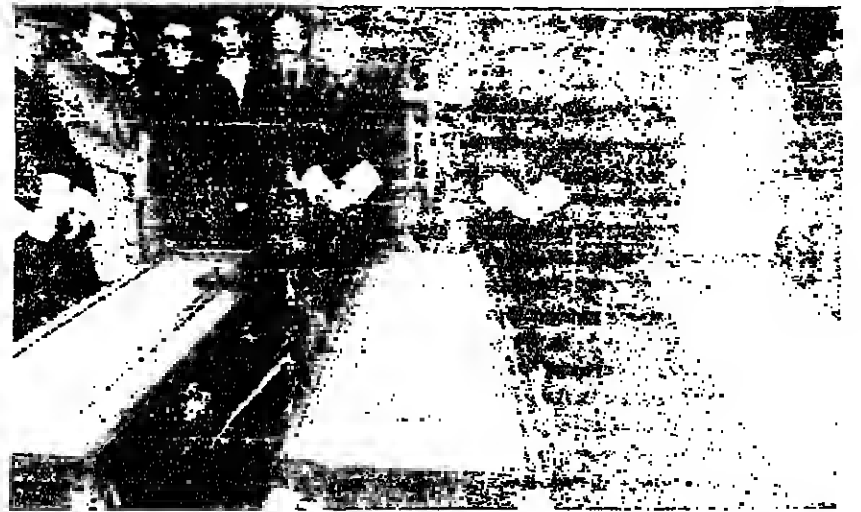
The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, is to travel next week to Southern Africa where he will have talks with the presidents of the five African "front-line" states -- Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met R.S. Botha, the South African Ambassador to Washington, for talks which are thought to have included discussion of recent developments on Rhodesia.

In Salisbury, top black nationalist sources said today that troops and arms were being moved from Soviet-backed Somalia to Mozambique for full-scale war against white-rule Rhodesia.

Mr. Richard told a press conference that he would fly to Botswana tomorrow and then on to Lusaka, where he expects to see President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia as well as Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, the leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, and the secretary general of the Organisation for African Unity.

He said his plans after that were not certain but he hoped to be back in London by the middle of next week.



LAST RESPECTS -- Mourners surround three coffins of the five Communist lawyers killed by rightist extremists Monday. The scene took place at a chapel in the government Palace in Madrid Wednesday. (AP wirephoto).

Suarez puts off M.E. tour as strikes sweep Spain

MADRID, Jan. 26 (R). — Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez put off a Middle East tour today as strikes paralysed industries in Spain in protest against a wave of political violence which killed seven people in the last four days.

Faced with the country's worst troubles in his six months as prime minister, Senor Suarez had to cancel plans for a trip tomorrow to Egypt, Iraq and Syria and decided to send Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja instead.

While the government met to consider ways of ending the violence, a crowd of 100,000 people gathered in Madrid during the funeral of five Communist lawyers killed in a machinegun attack on Monday.

Although the recent violence is widely believed to have been aimed at provoking a military coup, the country's new army chief declared today the army would not become embroiled in politics.

There were sporadic incidents after the funeral of the five lawyers, but order was maintained by Communist organisers during the procession through the city centre.

After the funeral, riot police fired tear gas when several hundred demonstrators shouting "liberty" blocked the road to Carabanchel prison.

CAIRO, Jan. 26 (R). — The Egyptian government today hanned demonstrations and strikes but said there would be no going back on political and economic liberalisation measures introduced by President Anwar Sadat.

Officials said the decision was taken after a lengthy cabinet meeting chaired by Premier Mamdouh Salem, which reviewed the internal situation after last week's riots against increases in staple foods, fuel and other commodities.

In another move today, the government approved a pay increase for civil servants and workers in the public sector and banks from this month, officials said. Pensions would also be raised.

Although the officials gave no figures, semi-official newspapers said the pay increase would be 10 per cent.

The officials said the government had decided to give top priority to solving housing, transport and communications problems.

Owners whose property was damaged by rioters would be compensated.

At today's cabinet meeting the government blamed Communists for instigating the violence last week, unprecedented in 25 years.

Officials said ministers had agreed that expressing individual or collective views should be done through legal channels, and that demonstrations and strikes would not be permitted.

Egypt is now negotiating with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for assistance to help its economy.

The Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs, Dr. Abdul Monem Qaisuni, is expected to start a tour of Arab oil countries shortly to seek financial aid.

President Sadat, who was due to address the nation tomorrow, postponed his speech until next week, apparently to await the result of investigations into last week's riots over price increases in which 79 people died.

The Prosecutor-General, Ibrahim Qalyoubi, told the semi-official Al Ahran newspaper in an interview today that police had unmasked four underground Communist organisations.

He named them as the Egyptian Communist Party, the Communist Labour Party, the Revolutionary Current and the January Eight Organisation. The significance of the January Eight label was not clear.

Mr. Qalyoubi said that 200 people were arrested in connection with the case and that the authorities had seized Communist leaflets inciting the population to overthrow the government.

The mass circulation Al Akhbar today warned Moscow in a front page article not to burn all its bridges with the Arab World. "Communist plots will always fail," it said.

Waldheim: End of Lebanese civil war will help settle Middle East conflict

DAMASCUS, Jan. 26 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expects the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference to reconvene in early spring, the Syrian newspaper Tichrin said today.

Dr. Waldheim said in an interview with the paper in New York that an end to the civil war in Lebanon would help in settling the Middle East conflict. All parties to the dispute were prepared to resume peace negotiations now that the Lebanese crisis was over, he was reported as saying.

On his proposed tour of the Middle East early next month, the U.N. Secretary General said he would discuss with governments in the area a date for the conference and an agreement on the number of states that will attend.

He would also try to fix an agenda for the meeting.

Tichrin quoted Dr. Waldheim as saying that he expected the conference to form specialised subcommittees to deal with various subjects.

The paper quoted Dr. Waldheim as saying that the form of Palestinian participation and representation in the Geneva conference was important for any settlement of the crisis.

There could be no solution to the Middle East problem without first settling the Palestinian question, he said, adding that a comprehensive settlement, and not partial settlements, was needed.

The paper also quoted Dr. Waldheim as saying there was no complete tradition between his tour and that of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, but that he had received encouragement from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union to go ahead.

Dr. Waldheim said it was important at this stage to find out from the parties to the conflict their proposals for a settlement.

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Play is resumed

President Carter's announcement that he will send his secretary of state on a Middle East tour in February is good indication that the United States does not long intend to sit on its hands as far as the Middle East is concerned. This should be welcomed by all. The first thing that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will discover in his talks with Arab leaders is that the United States is widely viewed by them as the sole catalyst for an Arab-Israeli peace agreement. He knows this well enough already, but it will be useful for the message to be conveyed to the top American policy-makers once again, and for President Carter to get it straight from the source.

The second thing Mr. Vance will discover is that the United States is sitting on the possibility of having both the Arabs and the Israelis as its long-term friends, a concept that is central to the greater geo-political interests of the United States. The Americans know quite well that both the commercial and strategic gains that will emanate from an Arab-Israeli settlement will flow largely to Washington. In fact, the United States today already gets most of what it wants from the Middle East, most of what it wants being primarily oil, and, second to that, keeping the Soviet Union out of the area as much as possible. But America's ties in the Middle East are still vulnerable to the excesses of American support of Israel, a support that intermittently results in ravages to the life and interests of the Arabs. Mr. Vance will quickly discover that the Americans will be able to cash in handsomely in the wake of a Middle East settlement, but that they cannot forever go on playing both sides of the fence and expecting to retain the friendship and economic cooperation of both the Arabs and the Israelis.

Furthermore, in his cute inaugural message to the world, President Carter said that the United States would devise its foreign policy in a manner that seeks to promote justice and to recognise the aspirations of the developing states. Mr. Vance is likely to be told that he can bag both these birds with one stone if the U.S. fosters a Middle East settlement based on justice to the Palestinians and equal fairness to all other parties, including the guarantees to Israel that Mr. Carter was so insistent upon during his election campaign.

Mr. Vance will also find out fast enough that his greatest stumbling block to a Middle East peace will be the unusual degree of Israeli fear that seems to preclude a meaningful Israeli dialogue with the Palestinians. This fear is translated in the U.S. into an aggressive lobbying effort whose results are political parrots such as, to pick only the most vociferous and most colourful, Senators Humphrey and Jackson. But it will be a new experience for President Carter and Mr. Vance to experience this fear in Israel itself, and they may be surprised to see the contrast between the tone of the Arab leaders and the stonewalling of the Israelis.

These things will only be learned by personal visits, and the new American president has done well to send his secretary of state for such a visit so quickly. They will both learn fast enough that, as President Sadat says twice a week, the Americans hold 99 per cent of the cards in this game. We hope that Mr. Vance's trip will help the Americans decide to play their cards wisely and prudently. The stakes are very high.



Sharif Ahmad Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Cabinet, (third from right) delivers his lecture on democracy in the University of Jordan Wednesday evening. He said that our educational system must do its best to build and develop the concept of democracy. Some failures of the Arab political institutions is due to the fact that none of them was built on democratic basis. The absence of democratic institutions in the Arab World will prevail unless we begin to teach the real meaning of democracy and start to behave accordingly. Sharif Sharaf added. Present at the gathering were the President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ahmad Soukhan, the President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Ishaq Farhan, and a number of the deans and professors at the university. (JT photo).

Israel confiscates houses of 15 more Arab families

AMMAN (JNA). — The occupied Jerusalem Arabic-language daily Al Quds has reported that the mayor of occupied Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek stated that 15 Arab families will be evicted from their homes in the old city to make room for a Jewish quarter to be established there.

The newspaper said that according to the plans of the occupation military forces, 30 Arab families have already been driven out from their houses within an area of 115 dunums, which the Israelis have been planning to confiscate together with the houses since 1967.

Al Quds also reported that only 45 Arab families and nearly 100 shops remained in this locality which is situated in the Bab Al Silalah street.

National Notes

AMMAN. — The Ministry of Waqf Islamic and Holy Places Affairs will open a colloquium on Islamic thought and society under royal patronage next Tuesday, it was announced here Wednesday.

The colloquium which will be held in the Islamic Scientific College campus will discuss issues and problems of the society in the light of Islamic thought with the aim of clarifying the Arab-Islamic message.

AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday cabled his congratulations to the Indian President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on the occasion of the anniversary of India's independence day.

Artists Association elects first administrative body

AMMAN (JT). — A seven-member administrative body for the Jordanian Artists Association (Painters and Sculptors) was elected Tuesday. The elected members are Messrs. Yasser Duwaili, Kuram Al Nimmari, Nayid Amr, Mahmoud Taha, Adiz Ammouri, Mahmoud Sadeq and Mrs. Naf Alarfat.

The association comprises 43 painters and sculptors. Its latest exhibition was held during the meeting of the Arab culture ministers in Amman last month.

It is expected that the administrative body will meet soon to elect its president, secretary and treasurer.

The creation of the association comes within the immediate tasks

GUIRINGAUD WILL BE HERE FEB. 20-21

AMMAN (JNA). — The French Foreign Minister, Louis de Guiringaud will visit Jordan Feb. 20-21, it has been announced here Wednesday. During his visit he will hold talks with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East and Jordanian-French bilateral relations.

Jordan, Senegal initial air transport accord

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and the Senegal Tuesday initialled a bilateral agreement for air transport.

The agreement was the results of talks held in Dakar between the Senegalese aviation authorities and a Jordanian team headed by the Director General of the Civil Aviation Department, Sharif Ghazi Rakan, who returned here Tuesday night from a two-week long visit.

Swedish economic delegation will arrive here

AMMAN (JNA). — A Swedish economic delegation will arrive here at the end of January to investigate Aqaba Port requirements of large cold-storage plants used for keeping different kinds of goods. This visit is another step adopted by the government to improve the port following the sizable increase in traffic there.

Somali coast team ends visit

AMMAN (JNA). — A delegation of the Somali Coast Liberation Front, headed by the front's central committee member, Abdallah Chayed Wednesday left here after a few days visit to Jordan during which they held talks with the Minister of Information Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hassan Ibrahim on the present and future political situation in the Somali Coast, due to gain its independence from France this year.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive if Jordanian filis for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	333.0	335.0
U.K. sterling	574.0	580.0
German mark	137.7	138.0
French franc	67.0	67.4
Swiss franc	132.5	132.9
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	37.9	38.1
Syrian pound	82.3	82.5
Lebanese pound	112.0	113.0
Saudi riyal	94.5	95.0
Iraqi dinar	943.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1150.0	1155.0
UAE dirham	84.1	85.0
Libyan dinar	763.0	781.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	485.0

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Jacques Chirac's bid for post of Paris mayor holds promise of political showdown with Giscard

PARIS, Jan. 26, (R) — What promised to be a dull election for the new job of Paris mayor has suddenly become a national political showdown that could shatter the authority of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The political moment of truth has come for the French leader as he nears the end of his third year in office, still preoccupied with the country's economic difficulties.

The cause of his new problem is not so much the Socialist-Communist opposition, which will in any case be threatening his hold on power in forthcoming elections, but the man he chose as his first

prime minister on winning the presidency in May 1974.

Ex-Premier Jacques Chirac, France's most combative politician, has rocked the government by announcing his candidacy for mayor of Paris, a post which carries hard political clout along with great symbolic weight.

M. Chirac, 44, is a man who thrives on action. But for upheaval value, it was a masterstroke even for M. Chirac when he announced last week that he would run against President Giscard d'Estaing's personal choice for mayor, Industry Minister Michel d'Ornano.

The effect of the Chirac ini-

tiative has been to split the government camp wide open and lay bare the rivalry between the president and his former premier, a conflict which both men had been trying to mask for several months.

While the left sits back happily to survey the disarray within the ruling Liberal-Conservative majority, the question now puzzling Frenchmen is whether M. Chirac's chief objective is to save France from leftwing government or to topple the president and take his place.

The Gaullist leader, who has transformed his party into an elec-

tion-fighting force called the Ras-

semblement Pour le Republique (RPR), could not have picked a more dramatic moment to pose so large a question.

The nationwide municipal elections which include the Paris race for mayor take place a few weeks away in mid-March. They will set the stage for a general election in just over a year's time on which France's political future depends.

M. Giscard d'Estaing aimed to

defuse tension in the ruling coalition on Jan. 17 when he outlined government election strategy at a press conference. Two days later his words were flung back in his face.

When the president ruled that the coalition parties -- the RPR, Centrists and Independent Republicans -- should tackle the elections in their own separate but harmonious way, M. Chirac felt the starting flag was down.

He was ready to go all out for RPR victories, convinced that the other coalition groups were too weak to resist the left. This approach meant attacking the citadel which M. Giscard d'Estaing had

started building in Paris when he named M. d'Ornano, a trusted Independent Republican associate, as government candidate for mayor.

M. Chirac, often criticised for acting on impulse insists that he entered the Paris contest because he saw the danger of a leftwing victory and did not feel the urbane M. d'Ornano, a nobleman from Normandy, could prevent it.

He also insists on his loyalty to the president. This seems directed more to the office than to the personality of M. Giscard d'Estaing, who ousted him as premier in a policy dispute last August.

The Elysee Presidential Palace

rejects the Chirac loyalty claims. In the harshest campaign yet mounted by pro-Giscard forces against any opponent of the left or right, the ex-premier is assailed as a menace, opportunist and traitor.

Giscard forces see the Chirac argument about a leftwing victory threat in Paris as a mere pretext. The government has a useful voting majority in the capital and Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski has told M. Chirac that if he really wants to block the left he should run for mayor of a left-leaning city like Marseilles or an undecided city like Le Havre.

Critics of the ex-premier heretofore read his choice of Paris as a sign that his target is to win the presidency for himself.

The candidate who is elected mayor, first to be installed in Paris for more than 100 years, will derive enormous influence from this city's status as political and administrative nerve centre of France.

The job can clearly be used as a stepping stone to the presidency.

The stakes are already high enough in "the battle of Paris" for there to be serious talk about it forcing a snap general election in the summer or autumn -- six months or so ahead of schedule.

Even M. Giscard d'Estaing's cherished economic stability plan could feel the impact. Prime Minister Raymond Barre, author of an anti-inflation programme which is beginning to show its first results, has expressed fears that the political turmoil caused by the Chirac move will thwart the plan.

It boils down to a tough alternative.

Defeat for M. Chirac in the March election could demolish his own political career. Victory for M. Chirac could demolish the authority of the president.

Israel says it swaps technical information for U.S. arms supplies

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (R). — Israel yesterday hit back at American critics of its arms sales policies with the claim that Israel had directly helped U.S. manufacturers in their own weapons production.

A Defence Ministry spokesman flatly denied U.S. press reports that Israel was continuing to sell locally-produced arms which include U.S. components, despite objections by Washington.

"Israeli exports of arms are not in contravention of U.S. laws and we have never sold any equipment after U.S. opposition to a specific deal," he said.

The spokesman was commenting at a press conference on reports that Israel was selling military equipment based on U.S. technology to Third World countries.

The spokesman flatly denied that the Israeli Shafir air-to-air missile was a copy of the U.S. Sidewinder missile. He said the Shafir was in service in Israel three years before the U.S. started deliveries of Sidewinders.

"The battlefield success of Israeli Defence Forces have directly assisted and aided U.S. arms technology," the spokesman said.

"The United States, particularly after the October 1973 war, received a steady flow of information on the performance of arms which was of direct aid to arms manufacturers in the United States."

The ministry official said Israel had sold \$300 million worth of military equipment abroad during 1976 and hoped to raise this figure to \$400 million this year.

He declined to name any of the arms buyers.

Israel's arms sales were necessary to maintain Israel's own arms

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Holes in railway wagons cause huge Soviet coal losses; but few complain

MOSCOW, (CSM). — With a swindle the government? No -- wagons whose wooden floors and walls are full of holes. Coal falls out continually and bounces away.

These chinks in Soviet energy policy have been revealed by an article from Donetsk, in the Ukraine, the country's oldest coal basin.

Signing himself an engineer-economist, Y. Ugryumov has written a stern article in the newspaper Socialist Industry in which he blames the Ministry of Rail-

roads for the lamentable state of wagons allocated to it by the railway ministry need serious repair. Holes in floors and walls were as much as five centimetres across. Only 14 per cent of cars met normal standards -- holes no larger than one centimetre.

There are wagons whose walls and bottoms resemble a sieve, he writes.

But finding answers is not so easy as it might seem.

If a mine rejects faulty wagons, it gets no replacements and thus cannot make its deliveries, he writes. If it decides to do the repairs itself, it has to hire more

workers, overspend its allocated salary budget, and throw its plans out of whack -- and coal is more expensive.

Another major task is obtaining the extra wood and nails needed. The article does not say so, but such supplies for railway wagons repairs are allocated only to the ministry, so mines have to go elsewhere.

That they do so successfully is indicated by Mr. Ugryumov's estimate that in one year alone the coal enterprises of the Ukraine repaired 600,000 wagons.

Those who buy the coal rarely

complain, he says. The procedure is difficult, and even if complaints are lodged, the government arbitration commission that is supposed to take action leaves the ministry unpunished.

But Mr. Ugryumov reserves his sharpest criticism for the ministry itself. He charges it with getting payment for tons loaded, not unloaded. He says it includes the tons lost in transit in reports to central planners to show it has fulfilled its targets and to qualify for the bonuses given those who overfulfill.

And he assails what he says is the ministry's own reply to complaints -- that wagons are in good condition since they do not threaten traffic safety.

The ministry also has another answer to coal mines. In effect it is: If you don't want our wagons, we'll allocate them to lumber mills.

Publication of the Ugryumov letter shows that the patience of the coal people is running thin. Such letters are standard weapons to gain the attention of the central planners in Moscow -- a

hopefully to get results.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)

7:00	Morning melodies
7:30	News
7:40	News reports
8:00	Sign off
12:00	Pop session
13:00	News summary
13:05	Pop session
14:00	News
14:10	Radio magazine
14:30	Special feature

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :

Amman :	Omar	42737
	K. Y. Atiyeh	Tel. 62840
	A. A. H. Assaad	73463
Irbid :	Zarga :	
	M. Youssef Al Taani	
Zarga :	Aqsa	
	Radwan Abu Hamad	

Pharmacies :

Amman :	Al Hussein Youth	Tel. 63273
	City	
	Rainbow	37249
	Abli	31137
	Granada	25021

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :

7:55	Cairo (EA)
8:25	Dhahran, Kuwait
8:30	Bangkok, Bahrain
8:50	Baghdad
11:15	Beirut
11:25	Rawalpindi (BA)
16:00	Kuwait (KAC)
17:00	Cairo
17:10	London
17:40	Copenhagen, Vienna
18:55	Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:40	Beirut (MEA)

Departures :

6:10	Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
8:00	Beirut
8:45	Beirut (MEA)
8:45	Cairo (EA)
10:30	Cairo
12:10	London (BA)
12:30	Rome, Paris
12:30	Athens, Madrid
16:40	Kuwait (KAC)
21:30	Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)

Tel. 75111

Civil defence (government)

Tel. 24391-4

Fire headquarters

Tel. 22090

First aid, fire, police

Tel. 19

Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)

Tel. 36381-2

Municipal water service (emergency)

Tel. 37111-2

Police headquarters

Tel. 39141

Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help

Tel. 21111, 37177

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)

Tel. 41520

British Council

Tel. 36147-3

French Cultural Centre

Tel. 37099

Goethe Institute

Tel. 41993

Soviet Cultural Centre

Tel. 44203

Amman Municipal Library

Tel. 36111

BBC RADIO

GMT

05:00	News: 24 hours
05:30	Sarah Ward
05:45	The World Today
06:00	News: Press Review
06:30	An Anthology of British Choirs
07:00	News: 24 hours
07:30	Sarah Ward
07:45	Origins of Industry
08:00	News
08:15	Dances of Old Vienna
08:30	News: 24 hours
08:45	The World Today
09:00	News: 24 hours
09:15	Music Now
09:30	Wales '77
09:45	News: 24 hours
10:00	News: 24 hours
10:15	A History of Food
10:30	Power from the Waves
10:45	Radio newsreel
11:00	Top Twenty
11:15	Sports Round-up
11:30	News: 24 hours

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 :

6:00	Quran
6:05	Children's programme
6:30	English by Television
8:00	News in Arabic

Channel 3 :

7:30	Science and life
8:30	Arabic series

GMT

13:30	Paperbacks
13:45	Radios Theatre
14:30	Music on Music
15:00	Radio newsreel
15:15	On
16:00	Commentary
16:15	Come to the Opera
16:45	The World Today
17:00	People and Politics
17:10	News
17:45	Sports Round-up
18:00	News: 24 hours
18:30	Take It or Leave It
18:45	News: 24 hours
19:00	People and Politics
19:15	News
19:30	The World Today
19:45	News: 24 hours
20:00	World News: 24 hours
20:30	A Jelly Good Show
21:15	People and Politics
21:45	Paperbacks
22:00	News: 24 hours
22:15	News: 24 hours
22:30	News: 24 hours
22:45	Sports Round-up
23:00	News: 24 hours

Channel 6 :

7:30	News in Hebrew
7:45	Varieties
8:30	A Swede in Paris
9:10	The quest
10:00	News in English
10:15	Crown court

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

03:00	The Breakfast Show
04:00	News
05:00	Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
16:30	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary
17:00	Dateline
18:00	Special English, News, Feature: Science in the News, News Summary.
18:30	Now Music USA
19:00	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses.
19:30	VOA Magazine, Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters.
20:00	Special English, News.
20:15	Music USA (Jazz).
21:00	VOA World Report: News to ... newsmakers' voices ...
21:30	correspondents' reports, background features ... news analyses.

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هكذا صنع القمح

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1975, The Chicago Tribune

first trick in dummy and run the jack of trumps. West's failure to follow suit tolled the death knell, for there was no way declarer could recover. He ended up down one.

Tommy, busily forming an excuse for reaching such a poor grand slam, absent-mindedly called a heart from dummy without specifying which heart. Following the Laws to the letter, dummy played his lowest heart and Tommy was forced to win in his hand. He crossed to the ace of diamonds and ran the jack of spades. For a moment he did not dare look at West's card, but when he saw it was a low club, he beamed in relief. Here was a hand which called for his unique talent of handling contracts where trumps broke badly.

Declarer continued by leading the ten of spades, then ruffing a diamond. The queen and ace of hearts provided entries for two more diamond ruffs, reducing Tommy to two trumps—the same number held by East. The king and ace of clubs reduced every hand to two cards, and when declarer led a club from dummy East was caught—with the A-Q of trumps poised over East's K-6, declarer was sure to make the last two tricks and his contract.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



CAST OFF! — A gleaming assortment of machined stainless steel ball castings destined for Europe's petrochemical and process industries comes under close scrutiny at a British steel foundry.

The company, Dewramet Ltd., of Glasgow, produces shell, machine and hand-moulded castings in stainless steel, heat resistant and high

alloys in a wide range of weights from a few grammes to a tonne. The best can withstand temperatures up to 1,100 degrees c. Though the majority of Dewramet's

castings are channelled to overseas projects, they have also recently supplied oil valves to control the ever-increasing flow of oil from the North Sea.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early morning delays in getting started in practical matters are soon over and you are able to accomplish much. The evening is great for anything you wish to do. Be expansive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over with financial experts how to improve your position in life. Plan to make improvements to your home that will make it more comfortable and increase its value. Improve health, also.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Improve appearance and health so that you are more dynamic. Then do some entertaining of good friends and get good results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Analyze just what progress you have made toward your most cherished goals and how best to speed up your advancement. You can have an enjoyable evening with a loved one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to please friends and come to a better understanding with them. Take care of a credit matter you've been neglecting. Then out to social groups you like and be happy with them.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You have many obligations to attend to today, so get an early start on them for best results. Use your finest judgment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Look into new projects that can help you to become a more successful and important person in the future. A new contact should be questioned before accepting what he has to offer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Relegate until evening whatever you want to discuss with your mate for best results. Plan new ventures that can prove to be profitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Talk over with associates how to best handle a new venture and make any needed changes in plans. Avoid those who hinder your progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy at all the work ahead of you and don't get impatient because of delays that could occur, since later in the day it brings advancement. Take time to shop for needed supplies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan amusements early in the day. Evening is best time for creative expressions. Take care of business matters efficiently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Invite good friends and something good comes of this. You are interested in a new venture and should study into it early.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Afternoon is a good time to confer with experts who can help you to get ahead faster. Get important work done early.

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LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

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"Hurry up, dear, and get your coat. I must have misunderstood — it's THEY who invited US to dine at their home tonight."

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

"No more sleepy than usual, I guess. Why?"

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

THE QUEST:
WELCOME TO AMERICA, JADE SNOW
The two brothers, help Chinese workers in their efforts to fight for their right to work in white town.

CROWN COURT:
EUTHANASIA
Husband is accused of killing his wife to save her her the sufferings of a long incurable illness.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person at the Jordan Times - Al Ra'i building, on University Road.

PEANUTS

HALF THE FUN OF SKATING IS MEETING GIRLS.

IT'S FUN TO MEET SOME NEAT GIRL, AND I HAVE GO OVER TO HER HOUSE FOR HOT CHOCOLATE AND SIT IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.

HOW ABOUT IT, SWEETIE?

ON THE OTHER HAND HALF THE FUN ISN'T ALWAYS HALF THE FUN!

OUT AND ABOUT

THE CROWN POINT
Hotel Jordan International. Open daily for Executive Luncheon 1-2 p.m. Special International Buffet on Sundays. Dinner with live music from 7 p.m. to midnight. For reservation please call 41381 ext. 5.

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First Chinese restaurant in Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abiyah School or CMS. Tel. 38738. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.

THE BEER MAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 23592
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

CHICKEN
Restaurants for roasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner.
Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21032. Jabal Al Luwaidah, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 20645. Jabal Al Hussain, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21791. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

FIRAS WINGS HOTEL, Jabal Al Luwaidah. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte.
Open 12-2 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 23283. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

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WHAT IS IT?
WHY IT'S A GENUINE LEOPARD SKIN FOR IN FRONT OF OUR FIREPLACE

I BOUGHT IT FROM A HUNTER FOR ONLY THIRTY DOLLARS

WHATEVER MADE YOU THROW IT IN THE WASH?

IT WAS DIRTY!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

JURCE
Be with you in a moment

RATTI
WHAT THE PILOT WAS GOING UP TO GET.

ANEET

QUILID

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Int answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: LOVER OFTEN JUNGLE PACKET
Answer: Sometimes one gets into it by means of passes - A TRANCE

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

It's time we had a little eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation.

APOLOGY

Jordan Times apologises for the non-appearance of the daily crossword. Our stocks have all run dry, and in the meantime we're waiting our next batch from our suppliers in the U.S. We shall resume publication as soon as possible.

Mondale meets Andreotti

As austerity deal concluded with trade unions

ROME, Jan. 26 (AFP). — U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale today said Italy could count on United States' support for its economic recovery programme.

In a news conference after a two-hour meeting with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Mr. Mondale said he was reasonably optimistic on Italy's chances of obtaining a \$1,000 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Meeting the press together with the prime minister, Mr. Mondale said he himself hoped negotiations for the loan would bear fruit.

The vice president noted that today's conversations were a continuation of those begun in December, when Mr. Andreotti visited the U.S. in a bid for support of the loan application.

Mr. Mondale, who arrived here this afternoon from Berlin on his 10-day tour of Europe and Japan, reiterated the new administration's plan to boost the American economy.

Added economic stimulation in the U.S., he said, would have positive effects on Italy when coupled with Rome's domestic policies.

Mr. Mondale is to be received in audience by Pope Paul VI tomorrow at the Vatican. Tonight, he is guest of honour at a dinner given by Italian President Giovanni Leone.

With almost immaculate timing, an agreement on austerity measures to cut inflation and make the country's exports more competitive was announced this morning.

Under the agreement, due to

be signed tonight, Italy's three trade unions agreed to modify the country's system of automatic pay increases every three months in line with the cost of living.

In future, these automatic increases will be lower because they will be limited to an employee's basic pay and will not simultaneously increase any seniority and retirement payments as in the past.

Earlier today, Mr. Mondale spent two hours in West Berlin, where he pledged U.S. readiness to use whatever means might be necessary to preserve freedom there.

Mr. Mondale linked the future of West Berlin with East-West détente and said any attempts to alter Berlin's special status would place a heavy burden on progress towards relaxing international tension.

RELEASE OF MAN BEHIND WATERGATE AUTHORISED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (R). — Howard Hunt, mastermind of the 1972 Watergate break-in will be freed from prison of Feb. 25 if he settles a \$10,000 fine imposed as part of his sentence.

The U.S. Parole Commission today ordered the release of Hunt, a 58-year-old former intelligence agent and writer of spy thrillers, on condition he pays the fine or gets a court waiver.

He has served about two-and-a-half years of a sentence that could have run to eight years.

Genscher begins Arab tour Feb. 8

BONN, Jan. 26 (R). — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will visit three Arab countries next month and will also go to Israel in the first half of this year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

His tour will be aimed at finding out how West Germany, a member of the United Nations Security Council, could help resolve the Middle East conflict, government officials said.

Herr Genscher will leave on Feb. 8 for Damascus on a five-day trip which will also take him to Amman and Cairo, but definite dates for his Israeli visit have still not been settled, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

In Cairo Mr. Hans Filbinger, Prime Minister of the West German state Baden Wuerttemberg held talks today with the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar and the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr. Salim Al Yafi.

Mr. Filbinger, who arrived here last Monday on a two-week visit at the invitation of president Anwar Sadat, said his talks covered means of strengthening relations between West Germany and Arab and Islamic worlds.

Condition deteriorates of hunger-striking "leftists" in Morocco

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Jan. 26 (AFP). — The condition of 139 accused Marxist-Leninists on trial for conspiracy is deteriorating seriously after a 10-day hunger strike against detention and trial conditions, French Defence Council Alain Marinet warned last night.

Mr. Marinet, of the Lyons bar, said after yesterday's hearing that the prison doctor had refused to attend to the strikers until they called off their protest movement.

The court yesterday heard the testimony of five accused, including the alleged leaders of the illegal organisation Ila Al Amam: Mr. Abraham Sarfati, 53, a Jew, Mr. Sifri Mohammed, Mr. Temsamo Khalouki, Mr. Zaazaa Abdullah and Mr. Haris Abdullah.

All five refused to answer cross examination in protest against the system of individual interrogation adopted after a series of trial interruptions during initial hearings.

Each accused is heard separately before being taken back to his cell.

All but six of the 139 have now testified and the hearings will end today.



BERLIN THOUGHTS -- U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale scrapes thoughtfully against his face Wednesday morning during a visit to Berlin's Brandenburg Gate -- seen in the background on East German Territory. The Governing Mayor of West Berlin, Klaus Schuetz, is at right, and British City Commandant Roy Redgrave appears at centre. (AP wirephoto).

Israel relishes more attacks on France over Abu Dawud affair

STRASBOURG, Jan. 26 (R). — France was attacked by Israel in the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly today for its decision to release Palestinian guerrilla chief Abu Dawud.

Mr. Moise Shachal, an official observer of the Israeli Knesset at the assembly, described the Abu Dawud incident as deplorable and said it would serve as an encouragement to international terrorism.

It was not known whether France would sign the convention tomorrow. M. Pierre-Christian Taittinger, Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry, is scheduled to represent France at a meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

Most other countries will be represented by their foreign ministers.

TANAKA'S LOCKHEED BRIBES TRIAL OPENS IN TOKYO TODAY

TOKYO, Jan. 26 (R). — Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka has been accused of corruption while in office, is expected to turn over on trial here tomorrow accused of taking a \$1.6 million bribe from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation to promote the sale of Tristar jets to Japanese Airlines.

Legal sources said the prosecution will make an opening statement tomorrow of about 100 pages, in which new facts will be presented.

If found guilty Mr. Tanaka, who resigned as premier in November 1974 after a row over his financial affairs, could face up to five years in prison and forfeiture of the alleged bribe.

Appearing with him in the Tokyo District Court will be his former secretary, Toshio Enomoto, charged with having physically handled the Lockheed money, and three former executives of the giant Marubeni Corporation, once Lockheed's agent in Japan.

Legal experts predict that the immensely complicated case, counting possible appeals to the Tokyo High Court and the Supreme Court, could last for five years.

Mr. Tanaka, 58, will be represented by nine high-powered defence lawyers, eight of them former judges or prosecutors.

The trial, the first time in Japan that a former prime minister has been accused of corruption, is expected to run for five years.

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Kuwaiti oil minister: Reduced sales force to cut back oil output

KUWAIT, Jan. 26, (Agencies) — Kuwait, Iran and Iraq, a decision on prices because oil production will average only 1.2 million barrels a day this month compared with last year's average of 2.2 million barrels, newspapers here said today.

Iran has complained since the beginning of the year, the publication Middle East Economic Survey, which says in Cyprus, said today to discuss the situation.

They quoted him as saying the fall resulted from reduced buying by oil firms which had stockpiled oil before prices were raised on Jan. 1.

Kuwaiti oil production averaged 3.2 million barrels a day in December when the government allowed production to increase to cope with the increased demand.

The Iraqi authorities had to be 30 per cent down on during the first quarter of 1976, the publication said.

It estimated that Iraq's production during 1976 averaged 2.2 million barrels a day.

The major buyers of Kuwaiti oil have asked the government to reduce the quantities they were due to buy during the next few months but it has not agreed.

Their liftings are allowed to fluctuate slightly under their contracts with the government but must average out over the long term.

Israeli Knesset approves new abortion law

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (R). — The Israeli Knesset approved a new draft abortion law in a stormy session here yesterday.

This crucial second reading of the bill will be followed by a formal third reading next week.

Under the draft bill, a committee of two doctors and a social worker recommend an abortion -- to be carried out in the first three months of pregnancy -- on medical, mental health or social grounds. The present law permits abortion only if the life of the mother or the fetus is endangered.

The two major parties -- the ruling Labour Alignment and the opposition Likud -- allowed their members to vote according to conscience.

Members of the religious parties heckled loudly, so speakers could not always be heard.

Mrs. Haika Grossman, a leading Labour sponsor, said the bill would halve the estimated 60,000 abortions now carried out illegally each year.

But it now has the status of a presidential proposal, which could increase pressure on the Soviet Union to ease its resistance to international on-site inspection. Moscow has claimed that this would simply be a pretext for U.S. espionage.

Mr. Carter's proposal may also put pressure on those factions in the Soviet Union and India who feel that the disadvantages of peaceful nuclear explosives, to be used for massive public works projects, outweigh the advantages.

"Some of the Russians are now beginning to realise that peaceful nuclear explosives are not all that attractive, that in political terms they are not worth the candle and that they can unleash serious ecological consequences," one expert says.

Current positions of the two sides are:

The Soviet Union contends that a comprehensive ban on underground nuclear explosions can be enforced without on-site inspections. It says each country can verify the other's observance of a test-ban agreement by seismographs and satellites.

Some American experts agree with the Soviet view. But the official American position thus far has been adamant: No comprehensive test-ban agreement without on-site inspection.

At the United Nations last year, the Russians hinted that they of most modern nuclear

Golda Meir faints in Knesset

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26, (R). — Mrs. Golda Meir, 78, who to have recovered today a fainting spell in the Knesset.

Mrs. Meir was taken to a hospital after fainting yesterday after attending a session of the Knesset. Her doctor said later the fainting was nothing serious.

Mrs. Meir's daughter told reporters today the premier was feeling well and had probably suffered an attack of food poisoning.

Mrs. Meir, who was minister during five years until 1974, has hospital several times over the past two years.

In 1975 she was treated for cataracts.

Mrs. Meir, born in Russia, educated in the United States, resigned as premier in 1974 after a long illness. She destroyed the belief that was militarily invincible Middle East conflict.

Question for Carter: Are there such things as peaceful nuclear explosion

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, (R) — President Carter's call for a halt to all nuclear tests will run up against two key problems which have blocked such a ban in the past: Tests of explosives for peaceful purposes and on-site inspection of suspected weapon tests.

To pursue his proposal, made in a weekend interview here, Mr. Carter will have to specify:

(A) Whether he will dispense with previous U.S. demands that American inspectors or international monitors should visit the sites of suspected nuclear weapon tests, and

(B) Whether he is ready to accept the Soviet and Indian view that there is such a thing as a "peaceful" nuclear blast.

The present 1963 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty forbids explosions in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater but does not prohibit blasts underground.

In the interview President Carter said he "would like to proceed quickly and aggressively with a comprehensive test ban treaty," adding: "I am in favour of eliminating the testing of all nuclear devices, instantly and completely."

Asked if he would include underground tests, he replied: "Yes. And whether or not the Soviets will agree to that, I don't know yet."

Mr. Carter's proposal follows the line he took in campaign statements.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (AFP). — U.S. aeronautics experts have acknowledged that the Soviet MIG-25 fighter-reconnaissance plane they inspected last autumn was superior to its American equivalents in some respects, the New York Times reported today. After Soviet pilot Viktor Belenko defected to Japan with the craft early in October, the U.S. air force at first said the MIG was built with out-moded technology.

LONDON, Jan. 26 (AFP). — The House of Commons early today voted decisively against a proposal to introduce proportional representation for elections to the planned regional assemblies for Scotland and Wales. After an all-sitting, the House rejected by 244 votes to 62 the proposal. The Scottish and Welsh regional assemblies to be set up under the Labour government's devolution plans will have 150 and 80 members respectively and will sit in Edinburgh and Cardiff.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (AFP). — Mr. Rene Levesque, Premier of the French-speaking Canadian Province of Quebec, last night told New York businessmen that he intended to lead his province to quiet independence, but argued that this should not deter foreign investment. Observers said the premier's forceful reaffirmation of his commitment to independence was likely to frighten off investors, in spite of his assurance that his government was "quite willing to accept and welcome foreign enterprise, so long as it respects our majority language and culture."

KHARTOUM, Jan. 26 (AFP). — Sudan's ruling Socialist Union Party began its second congress here last night amid virtual certainty that it will re-elect President Jaafar Nimeiri to a new six-year mandate. Already, Mr. Nimeiri has predicted a major cabinet reshuffle after the congress.

CAIRO, Jan. 26 (AFP). — Aid to Egypt on the lines of the "Marshall Plan" for Europe after World War II was proposed today by the Central Bank Deputy Governor, Abdul Monem Al Banna, in an article appearing in the newspaper Al Ahram.

JAKARTA, Jan. 26 (R). — Iraqi Vice President Taha Mohieddin Maarouf left for home today after a three-day official visit and talks with Indonesian leaders on the world oil situation. At a state dinner last night, Mr. Maarouf voiced criticism against industrialised countries over their strong reaction towards the recent oil price increases.

JAKARTA, Jan. 26 (R). — The Indonesian government has banned the film "Raid on Entebbe" for political reasons, an Information Ministry spokesman said today. The film dramatises the Israeli raid to release hostages held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda last July.

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (R). — A young Dutch woman on trial here for attempted espionage admitted today membership in the European Revolutionary Organisation and training in the use of arms and explosives in a camp in Aden. Miss Janssen, who is charged with having flown into the airport here more than three months ago to observe security arrangements, said she was opposed to airplane hijackings and violence.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed firm Wednesday after a moderately active session and at 15:00 the F.T. index was up 5.5 at 383.2.

Government bonds were fairly active gaining in anticipation of a further big reduction in the Bank of England minimum lending rate on Friday.

There was quick reaction during the afternoon session on news that the discount houses were required to borrow at the current lending rate of 13-1/4 pct thereby not allowing interest rates to fall any faster. Net gains ranged to 1/4 point on balance but the long 'tap' stock, treasury 13/4 1993 stock ended 5/16 higher after trading 3/8 higher at 97 stg.

B.P. closed at its highest of 822p up 14p. Burmah Oil met renewed support and rose 4p while Shell gained 5p. Joseph Lucas, Thorn, Hawker Siddeley, Tube Investments and Beecham showed net rises of 6p to 10p.

Gold shares were idle for much of the day after a mixed opening. Operators were biding off ahead of the IMF gold auction. Australians eased.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مجلس الشعب"